

DE 99-069

PUBLIC SERVICE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Nuclear Decommissioning Charge

Order NISI Approving Nuclear Decommissioning Charge

O R D E R N O. 23,322

October 25, 1999

On April 29, 1999, the Petitioner, Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH), filed a letter requesting that the current Nuclear Decommissioning Charge (NDC) of \$0.00066 per kilowatt hour remain in effect until the Nuclear Decommissioning Finance Committee (NDFC) issued a final order in Docket NDFC 98-1. PSNH's annual update of the calculation of the NDC would normally be filed on or about May 1, 1999 for the effective period June 1, 1999 through May 31, 2000.

On October 1, 1999, PSNH filed a technical statement and attachments supporting its calculation of the base level charge and above base level charge subcomponents for the period November 1, 1999 through October 31, 2000. The filing reflects the nuclear decommissioning funding schedule based upon the NDFC's Report and Order in Docket NDFC 98-1 dated June 8, 1999. PSNH calculates the NDC to be \$0.00110 per kilowatt hour, with the amount above base level assumptions to be \$0.00081 per kilowatt hour. The base level assumptions are contained in the Rate Agreement and Docket DR 89-244.

The above base level charge requested is an increase of \$0.00044 to the above base level charge currently in effect. The \$0.00110 decommissioning charge will cost the typical residential customer, who consumes 500 kWh per month, \$0.55 per month, an increase of \$0.22 over the current \$0.33 per month. Among the reasons for the increase are a change to the decommissioning full funding date and related funding schedule from the year 2026 to the year 2015 as well as reduced kWh requirements used in the calculation under the assumption that PSNH will not be serving the New Hampshire Electric Cooperative partial requirements load in the year 2000.

Commission Staff has reviewed the decommissioning calculations and agrees that the \$0.00081 above base nuclear decommissioning charge is appropriate and consistent with the funding schedule in the NDFC 98-1 Report and Order. We have reviewed the filing and find that the charge is consistent with the provisions of RSA 162-F:19, III.

Based upon the foregoing, it is hereby

ORDERED NISI, that the above base nuclear decommissioning charge of \$0.00081 per kilowatt hour for the period November 1, 1999 through October 31, 2000 is approved, and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Petitioner shall cause a copy

of this Order Nisi to be published once in a statewide newspaper of general circulation or of circulation in those portions of the state where operations are conducted, such publication to be no later than November 1, 1999 and to be documented by affidavit filed with this office on or before November 8, 1999; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that all persons interested in responding to this petition be notified that they may submit their comments or file a written request for a hearing on this matter before the Commission no later than November 12, 1999; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that any party interested in responding to such comments or request for hearing shall do so no later than November 19, 1999; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that this Order Nisi shall be effective November 29, 1999, unless the Commission provides otherwise in a supplemental order issued prior to the effective date; and it is

FURTHER ORDERED, that the Petitioner shall file a compliance tariff with the Commission on or before November 19, 1999, in accordance with N.H. Admin. Rules, Puc 1603.02(b).

By order of the Public Utilities Commission of New
Hampshire this twenty-fifth day of October, 1999.

Douglas L. Patch
Chairman

Susan S. Geiger
Commissioner

Nancy Brockway
Commissioner

Attested by:

Thomas B. Getz
Executive Director and Secretary